



GUIDELINE 31 — MANAGEMENT OF WASTE GRAINS, ELEVATOR SCREENINGS AND SIMILAR AGRICULTURE WASTES

NORTH DAKOTA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH - DIVISION OF WASTE MANAGEMENT

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Attachment: SW List of Municipal Waste Landfills

In response to state grain dealers and other interested persons, the Department has developed this guideline for management of waste grains, elevator screenings and similar food-related agriculture wastes. In North Dakota, as throughout the country, solid waste generators are looking at new, innovative ways of managing waste to avoid disposal. Increased regulation of solid waste landfills in the state has resulted in closure of many municipal waste sites, thus encouraging an integrated approach to managing various waste streams. Reduction, reuse and recycling are seen as preferred waste management technics as opposed to incineration or disposal. Generators of waste grains or similar food stocks could evaluate reuse of these materials as livestock or wildlife feed, or other possible uses as long as no health, environment hazards or nuisances are created.

The North Dakota Agricultural Department has concerns that management of materials containing noxious weed seeds are carefully controlled so as to prevent the spread of noxious weeds on agricultural lands. The Department of Health's concern with management of waste grains and similar materials is that the materials are managed so as to not attract mice, rats, insects or other vermin and that the materials are managed to reduce rotting conditions and its associated odor and health hazards. If reuse or recycling is not an option for waste grains, screenings and similar materials, such materials may be hauled to a municipal landfill for proper disposal. State regulation requires municipal landfills to cover the waste materials at the end of each day's disposal, thus, minimizing the problems of odors, insects, vermin and the spread of weed seeds. A copy of the municipal waste landfill list is attached to this guideline.

Access to a municipal waste landfill may be difficult in a few areas of the state. In such cases, the Department may consider allowing the disposal of these materials at an inert waste landfill if special precautions are taken.

Inert waste landfills are normally not required to bury their waste at the end of each day, thus they are not suitable for disposal of food-related waste. The Department would consider a variance to allow inert waste landfills to take waste grains, screenings, etc., if such materials are properly disposed in a secure area and are **covered at the end of each day's disposal** with at least 6 to 12 inches of earthen material. The final cover over such areas must be at least two to three feet and the area reclaimed to promote proper native revegetation. The Department cautions that inert waste landfills considering disposal of these materials have access to adequate equipment to do the covering work and must have proper facilities and room to accomplish such tasks. Sometimes, cooperation

between the elevator owner, the inert waste landfill owner, and any contractors will help ensure proper disposal.

Persons working in agriculturally related industries should be knowledgeable of facilities in their area and of sound, solid waste management practices. Discussing issues of concern with solid waste facility owners/operators in advance is a good practice to ensure proper communication and avoid delays and misunderstandings.

The Department may, on a case-by-case basis, especially in the cases of emergencies, allow a variance for disposal of waste agricultural products on sites other than inert waste landfills. The Department has a variance application that must be followed to allow such variances. Naturally, a variance does not supersede local zoning or landowner concerns.

Should anyone have any questions regarding these matters, please contact the Department at (701) 328-5166. Noxious weed issues should be directed to the State Department of Agriculture at 701-328-2231 or Toll-Free Number 1-800-242-7535.